IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) An RFID labeling system, comprising:

an RFID encoder coupled to receive a signal and program an RFID label based on the signal, wherein the signal contains information for programming the RFID label;

an RFID label applicator adapted to apply the programmed RFID label onto an object;

a host computer capable of sending the signal to the RFID encoder, wherein the signal is a data stream having a first programming language and comprising instructions for printing an image on an optically readable label, wherein the RFID encoder is capable of extracting information from data streams of different programming languages.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an optical label reader capable of sending the signal to the RFID encoder, wherein the signal comprises data read from an optically readable label.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the RFID encoder verifies that information contained in an optically readable label matches data programmed on the RFID label.

MacPHERSON, KWOK CHEN & HEID LLP
1762 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE
SUITE 226
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
(949) 752-7040
FAX (408) 392-9262

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising an optical label reader adapted to receive the data stream for verifying that the optically readable label has been properly printed.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the optically readable label is a barcode label.

8. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the optically readable label is a barcode label.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the object is a container.

10. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein properly printed comprises the optically readable label being readable and printed with the information corresponding to the data stream.

11. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the optical label reader is coupled to the RFID encoder for receiving the data stream.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising an optically readable label printer and applicator coupled to the host computer and adapted to receive the data stream.

MacPHERSON, KWOK CHEN & HEID LLP
1762 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE
SUITE 226
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
(949) 752-7040
FAX (408) 392-9262

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising a conveyer system for moving the package past the optically readable label printer and applicator and the RFID encoder.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the optically readable label printer and applicator applies the optically readable label to the package prior to the object passing by the RFID encoder.

15. (Previously presented) A method for applying an RFID label onto a package containing an optically readable label, the method comprising:

receiving a signal comprising RFID programming information from a host computer, wherein the signal is a data stream in a programming language;

programming the RFID label using the RFID programming information; ~~and~~

applying the RFID label onto an object;

determining whether the optically readable label has been properly printed;

determining whether the RFID label has been properly programmed; and

applying the RFID label to the object if the optically readable label has been properly printed and the RFID label has been properly programmed.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the signal is read from a corresponding optically readable label.

MacPHERSON, KWOK CHEN & HEID LLP
1762 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE
SUITE 226
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
(949) 752-7040
FAX (408) 392-9262

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the optically readable label is a barcode label.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising programming the RFID label using commands from the data stream.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein commands in the data stream are also used to print the optically readable label.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the information for determining whether the RFID label has been properly programmed is extracted from data streams of different programming languages.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein determining whether the RFID label has been properly programmed comprises comparing data on the optically readable label with data encoded in the RFID label.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein determining whether the optically readable label has been properly printed comprises determining whether the optically readable label is readable.

McPHERSON, KWOK CHEN & HEID LLP
1762 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE
SUITE 226
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
(949) 752-7040
FAX (408) 392-9262

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein determining whether the optically readable label has been properly printed comprises determining whether the optically readable label contains information from the data stream.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein determining whether the optically readable label has been properly printed comprises scanning the optically readable label.

27. (Currently amended) A method of applying labels to packages in a system having an RFID encoder, the method comprising:

printing an optically readable label based on information contained in a data stream from a host computer, wherein the data stream can be of different programming languages and wherein the RFID encoder is capable of extracting information from data streams of different programming languages;

applying the optically readable label onto a package;

verifying whether an RFID label has been properly programmed based on information contained in the data stream or in the optically readable label; and

applying the RFID label to a package if the RFID label has been properly programmed.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising determining whether the optically readable label was printed properly.

MacPHERSON, KWOK CHEN & HEID LLP
1762 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE
SUITE 226
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
(949) 752-7040
FAX (408) 392-9262

29. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising writing to the RFID label using information from the data stream or the optically readable label before the verifying.

30. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising comparing the content of the optically readable label with the content of the RFID label.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the determining comprises scanning the optically readable label.

32. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the determining comprises using information contained in the data stream.

33. (Canceled).

MacPHERSON, KWOK CHEN & HEID LLP
1762 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE
SUITE 226
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
(949) 752-7040
FAX (408) 392-9262